(b) if so, the names of foreign companies where equity has been sold; and

(c) the money earned by such sale alongwith the percentage of profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has divested its equity holding of "Sakhalin India Inc.", its wholly owned subsidiary, incorporated in Texas, USA, in favour of Oil India Ltd. (OIL) on 10.3.2003.

(c) OVL has not earned any profit on this transaction.

Production of LPG

†2734. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LPG is produced in the country;

(b) if so, its average annual production during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any possibility to increase its production in the country; and

(d) if so, the extent to which its production can be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The average annual production during the last three years is given below:—

		(Quantity in thousand metric tonnes)
1999-2000	—	4484
2000-2001	—	6149
2001-2002	—	6992

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) As per the estimates, LPG production for the year 2003-04 is estimated at 7386 thousand metric tonnes.

Concessional pricing for crude by OPEC

2735. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countires (OPEC) is considering India's request for concessional pricing of crude oil supply in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details of requests being examined by OPEC; and

(c) to what extent Government are likely to be benefited from OPEC's decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government had taken up with OPEC member countries for concessions in the form of extended credit periods, soft loans and discounts by the oil exporting countries to the developing oil importing countries in situation of high oil prices. The OPEC member countries have opined that this issue should be bilaterally negotiated with the oil exporting countries while finalising the terms of oil supply.

Attack on oil refinery in Assam

2736. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA has attacked with a rocket propelled granade in Digboi Refinery in the first week of March, 2003;